

A.NOLEN

Assaulting Mt. Helicon: Writing and Current Affairs.

monthly archives: APRIL 2014

TICK SEASON



Charles E Marsh, easily mistaken for Jesus.

If you live near deer, or chipmunks, you'll be painfully aware that it is now tick season. If you've no experience with these insects, I'll give you a hand: imagine a disgusting little parasite that looks like a dried scab when it's hungry, and when it's full, looks like a coffee bean but feels like a wilting grape. That squishiness comes from your cat's blood (if not yours) and hundreds of little scab-babies.

Tick Season is the perfect time for a post on [Charles Marsh](#). Charles Marsh was a Texas-based newspaperman. He owned several papers, and a host of other investments besides— Marsh was a millionaire in the 1930s and one of the richest men in the USA.

However, you won't hear much about Marsh. Even amongst the circles of people interested in 'deep politics'. Charles Marsh's driving passion was to be a behind-the-scenes power-broker. He sought ways to get closer to power: he made sure his fleet of papers always supported FDR and even moved to Washington D.C. hoping to be accepted into Franklin Delano Roosevelt's inner circle. (Franklin was sponsored by New York interests.) Marsh's attempts to break into FDR's confidence are what put me onto him, because they lead to his championing a young Brit named Roald Dahl.

The Roosevelts were a funny bunch of people. Both Franklin and Eleanor were born into money and the sheltered environs of wealthy New England, which meant they knew that 1) everybody else was a sinner and 2) God was with them.

However, Franklin's political support was not aristocratic; it was Wall Street. Elenor's life was filled with similar contradictions: she was neither attractive nor well liked amongst her own set of people. She felt towards her 'class' much like Julia Child [felt towards her set back in Pasadena](#)— the bitterness of a woman who feels under-appreciated. So this odd couple were an odd mix of money, bitterness, adventurism, socialism and greed, all tied together under the pink bow of humanitarianism.

I'm telling you this because the castles we build in our minds dictate how attackers will lay siege. Charles Marsh was one such attacker; he lay siege to the Roosevelts by attaching himself to a handsome young man who flirted with an old cripple and his neglected wife.



Roald Dahl and another spook.

Roald Dahl, a British airman who’d been grounded for health reasons, was stationed in Washington D.C. in 1942 under the guise of a diplomatic attaché, but with a secret mission to undermine American political resistance to fighting closely alongside Britain. Dahl was personally selected for this mission by Harold Balfour, representative of the RAF in Churchill’s War Cabinet.



Dahl got his introduction to the President and his wife through a Hollywood movie man named Gabriel Pascal, who broke into film by swimming nude for George Bernhard Shaw. (Dahl had met Pascal through an old family friend, Alfred Chenhalls– the guy against whom **Dahl’s sisters locked their bedroom doors every night**. Chenhalls got a job for Pascal through **Leslie Howard**.)

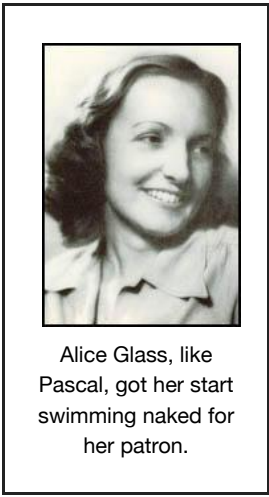


The Roosevelts liked Pascal’s little friend so much that they ended up inviting Roald to their weekend retreats, where he satisfied the emotional needs of the aging couple and reported back to Churchill. The Roosevelts probably knew this snitching was going on, as they partnered so closely with William Stephenson, the British spy, to undermine their **fellow Americans** political opponents. That type of behavior used to be called treason, but I digress...

Pascal introduced Dahl to Charles Marsh also; Dahl’s connection to the Roosevelts is what drew Marsh to the young man. Marsh took Dahl under his wing in an intense mentor-protégé relationship: the older man would dole advice down to Roald, who would eagerly lap it up and entertain his host with bawdy jokes. In return, Marsh got a foot into exclusive salons courtesy of His Majesty’s Government. Marsh would provide intelligence to the British through Dahl. (Not always wittingly!)

So you can think of the FDR government as a wound on a deer, and men like Charles Marsh as the ticks who followed the smell of blood to likely feeding spots. But what’s it like inside a tick’s head?

Marsh was a collector of people. He had a wife, but spent most of his time with his exquisite young mistress, Alice Glass. (Alice, a woman just as vicious as her sponsor, made it her mission to sleep with every man Marsh brought back to their Virginia estate.) Marsh would charm young male proteges like Dahl or Lyndon B Johnson. He used his money and media empire to collect people too, such as Indira Ghandi and Mother Theresa, who were both Marsh’s paid “agents” in India. Marsh was also a patron of artists, like sculptor **Jacob Epstein**.



How does one collect people? By sniffing out what they want and then promising to provide it (but never fulling delivering). Charles Marsh was an expert manipulator. I’ve written elsewhere about **Roald Dahl’s emotional** damage; Marsh filled Dahl’s need for powerful friends and a father figure. Roald hung on every word Marsh said, to the wonder of his British friends and family who, according to Donald Sturrock, found Marsh “pushy and patronizing” or “a terrible bully”.

Perhaps the most telling insight into Marsh’ character comes from this extract from Dahl’s authorized biography:

But there was a good reason for their [the Dahl family’s] animosity. When he [Charles Marsh] came to England in 1950, Marsh had almost driven Alfhild’s husband insane.

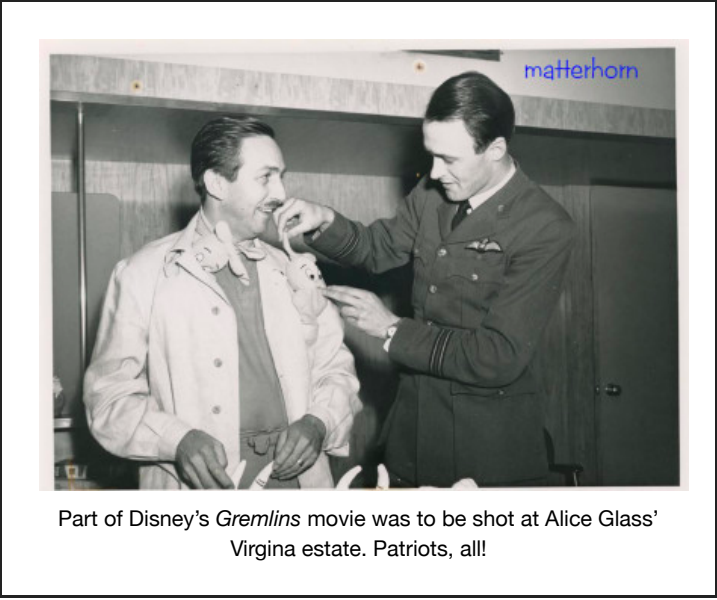
Leslie Hansen, Roald’s brother in law, was highly intelligent and unconventional. He drew cartoons and caricatures, but he was also mentally unstable... Despite, or perhaps because of his idiosyncrasies, Leslie had been completely absorbed into the Dahl family and they all felt protective of him. But he was quite unable to deal either with Charles Marsh’s quasi-religious philosophy or his overt generosity. As Roald put it, Charles “toppled an already wobbly brain clean over the precipice.” Hansen started to believe that

Marsh was Jesus Christ returned to earth, and that he was his disciple. Roald was forced into the role of carer:

[Dahl quotation] “Every day he collapsed and jabbered and search the bible and saw portents and coincidences and said he was dying... Well it would have been OK for Charles to be JC and for Leslie to be St. Paul if the idea hadn’t driven him stark raving mad... It was as much as one could do to handle him and stop ourselves from being forced to send him to a lunatic asyulum... I spent hours and hours with him forcing him to realize that Marsh was not Jesus Christ , that he was an ordinary man, rather a good ordinary man nevertheless, who fornicated and joked and made merry just like everyone else... I then encouraged him to draw cartoons of Charles (a thing that would previously have been sacrilegious) and he became more cheerful... Truly, Claudia, it was a near thing and all pretty awful. The most awful thing of all being to hear the small child Astrid saying repeatedly, don’t cry daddy, we won’t leave you. Most pathetic thing I’ve every heard in my life. No-one of course cares very much about Leslie. But the terrors it reflected upon Alf and Astrid are very great.”

Roald eventually told the same Claudia, another Marsh mistress, that he blamed himself for encouraging Charles to visit the Dahls in England; he begged Charles not to return to their home in Amersham and to drop the “mystic bullshit”.

Part of Marsh’s act were extravagant displays of generosity to people that were useful to him: for instance, conspicuous investment in the Third World; sending vitamins to the malnourished constituents of rival European politicians; or supporting propaganda projects that powerful people aligned themselves with, such as Dahl’s RAF/Walt Disney effort with *The Gremlins*. All of these investments were under the guise of charity, of course.



Take a step back and admire Charles Marsh’s character: giving to the poor, starving people of war-torn Europe with irreproachable magnanimity, but then playing with weakest of his beneficiaries for his own amusement– to the point of driving Leslie mad. Marsh was not motivated by benevolence. Much like the Roosevelts, whose power he coveted, Marsh was God’s voice on earth, teaching the rest of us ‘goodness’, but with no real inner goodness himself.

Marsh’s hypocrisy is typical of the Yankee religious fanaticism that is broadcast over the megaphones at USAID, CNN, MSNBC... telling the rest of the world what’s right to think; a way of thinking that *just happens* to be highly profitable to those ‘Yankees’. This hypocrisy screams– yet it is endemic amongst our ‘intellectual’ class even now.

People like Marsh are so completely hypocritical that I wonder if there isn’t something wrong with them, some sort of cognitive deficiency of the type Joanna Ashmun described in her essay on [narcissistic traits](#). Whatever their motivation, the ‘Charles Marsh’-style political manipulator has become so much a part of the Washington scene that they are now as American as the ticks on my cat’s back.



PS. Most of this information can be found in Jennet Conant’s *The Irregulars* or Sturrock’s book on Dahl.

LEAVE A COMMENT

WALTER GLASS POSITS
PERMISSIBLE CONSPIRACISM



anolen:

Rancid Tarzie on ‘safe’ conspiracy theories!

“...there are three essential characteristics that render a conspiracy theory acceptable to the kind of people who read the New York Times:

1. the theory ignores inconvenient and confusing context
2. the theory is partisan
3. the theory is harmless [to the ruling class]“



Originally posted on [The Rancid Honeytrap](#):

One of my favorite bloggers, Walter Glass, has quite [a good new post](#), which, in a short space, ranges over a number of interesting ideas but is, at heart, about conspiracism. Glass takes as his jumping off point [the most upvoted comment on this recent New York Times piece by Ross Douhat](#), which, rather than grappling with anything Douhat has actually said speculates that —

The Heritage Foundation, the Manhattan Institute and the Club For Growth must have issued the new propaganda memo: Paint the opposition as Marxist

This is pretty out there, especially considering that Douthat’s piece is really just a respectfully conservative take on the much-talked-about resurgence of Marxism on the academic left. This prompts Glass to wonder “how exactly an honest-to-goodness conspiracy theory finds purchase among a mainstream liberal crowd that we might expect to reject such things.” He suggests that there are three essential characteristics that render a conspiracy...

[View original](#) **111 more words**

LEAVE A COMMENT

THROWING GOOD AFTER BAD



My favorite cooking show is *Two Fat Ladies*: a pair of elderly British spinsters cook the old-school way, with a sprinkling of history and literature thrown in. In one episode Jennifer Paterson, the ‘color commentator’, said something like the following:

“Do you know, Clarissa, that Scottish women used to have all their teeth pulled as a coming-of-age present. They thought dentures were more elegant.”

“Impossible, Jennifer! That’s too ridiculous. It must be anti-Scotch propaganda.”

“Oh no, Clarissa. It isn’t!”

I asked myself: could people really be so foolish as to throw away a set of good teeth for dentures? Just for convenience or vanity?!?

About a week after watching that episode, my copy of *Storyteller: The Authorized Biography of Roald Dahl* came in the mail.

Roald Dahl also had most his teeth pulled– for vanity and convenience. As the author Donald Sturrock explains it:

Dahl made sure that all his literary royalties went to charity, but out of the sales and syndication of Shot Down Over Libya he allowed himself one important luxury– a splendid new set of false teeth, crafted by Lord Halifax’s dentist himself, with a plate made out of a “mixture of gold and platinum,” and a price tag of \$380. This “new set of clackers,” as Dahl joyously described them, still left a “tidy hunk” for the RAF, but they were a source of great pleasure to their owner, who believed that in most cases real teeth were more trouble than they were worth. Removing them, in his view, was a radical but undoubtedly prophylactic measure– preferable to years of infections, toothache and expensive dental treatment.

Curiously, this was not an opinion he had formed as a result of his head injuries, but one arrived at while a trainee at Shell. Thus, at the age of twenty-one, just before he went to Tanganyika, he had paid a visit to Leslie Wright, a top Harley Street dentist, to have most of his teeth extracted and artificial replacements fitted.

Now bear in mind readers, Roald Dahl was an educated man (at least as well educated as any college graduate now, though he didn't go to university), and he made the choice to have his perfectly healthy teeth pulled sometime in 1937. So, we're not talking about healthcare in the 1870s or some such.

Roald Dahl, the womanizer, the British Secret Agent, the literary genius, chose to swap his teeth for dentures. Imagine being one of his conquests, like [Rep. Clare Boothe Luce](#), rolling in the hay with a young man then- SLURP!- his teeth fall out. Vote for Britain!

I shouldn't laugh too much. There was a war on and men were scarce.

My point: Roald didn't just make one stupid decision about his teeth. After having lived with dentures for some time, he tried to get other more impressionable people to make the same bad choice he did. Again, Sturrock's words:

He [Roald Dahl] browbeat his mother into having her teeth removed as well, before turning his evangelical zeal on his siblings. They put up more resistance. But Roald continued to try and persuade them, getting increasingly impatient, foul-mouthed and irrational when Alfhild in particular refused to go. He was delighted when, in the mid-1950s, he persuaded his brother-in-law, Leslie Hansen, to go to an American dentist and have all his teeth extracted. Hansen's subsequent decision not to have any new teeth fitted at all and to live the rest of his life chewing on his gums surprised him. But only momentarily. It soon became yet another eccentricity to savor.

Unsurprisingly, Leslie Hansen was plagued by mental instability. He had something like a nervous brake-down instigated by Roald's American patron, Charles Marsh, who liked to play with weak people. But back to those vanity-dentures...

In my neck of the woods we have two sayings: "throwing good money after bad" and "misery loves company". These idioms both apply to Roald Dahl's dentures, because they describe an unwillingness to admit that one has been wrong despite ample evidence to the contrary. These idioms can also describe someone's selfish desire to pull other people into the same bad choice, as part of the first screw-up's 'flight' from the reality of their original mistake. "See, I wasn't wrong!" the Roald-Dahls say, "Here are more victims to prove it!"

This frame of mind, what the Germans call, *Realitätsflucht*, or 'flight from reality,' neatly describes NATO and the US's involvement in the Ukraine, a situation that is devolving into a needless civil war.

I'm not quite into middle age yet, but even I can remember being 'here' before: on the eve of the destruction of the Former Yugoslavia; the invasion of Iraq; the destabilization of Libya. I've seen enough American 'humanitarian' intervention to know that our armed services have been co-opted for private interests, they no longer serve 'American' interests in any way, shape or form.

I have sympathy and compassion for young enlisted people who join the military thinking that they're protecting the homeland. Everybody has the right to a learning curve. What disgusts me are those servicepeople who are old enough to remember Yugoslavia, etc. and who repeatedly recommit to US adventurism overseas.

To The 'Roald Dahls' of the Military Industrial Complex: This isn't about "duty", an "oath" or "professionalism". You're old enough to know better. This is about taking personal responsibility for your actions. This is about growing up. What you have embarked on in the Ukraine is evil; you are fermenting unrest so that Western oligarchs can grab more resources. You've seen this movie before and you know how it ends. Conscientiously object. It's the right thing to do. There is life after a dishonorable discharge; you'll probably find it to be a better life, because you'll have regained your self respect. Don't pull a bunch of naive kids down with you.

I have a great deal of respect for Ukrainians: my favorite professors, coworkers, and [my favorite writer](#) have all come from this country. I was even engaged to a Ukrainian for a while. (Long story!) I have some understanding of their culture and world-view and I respect them for it; they deserve better than an American-inspired kleptocracy.

The Ukrainians have suffered immensely in the past when Americans stirred the pot in Eastern Europe. Something like 8 million of them were starved by our ally Stalin in the aftermath of the American-funded regime change in Moscow, which put the Bolsheviks in power. It's shameful that any Americans are involved in rolling those dice again. Shameful.

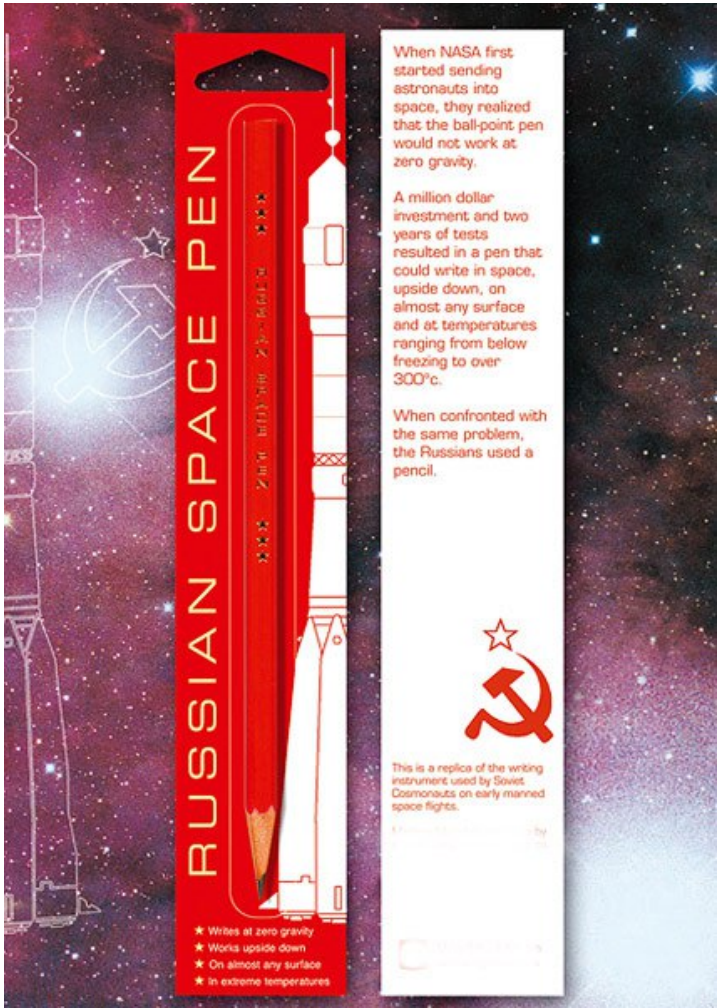
Out of (misplaced) pity for those seasoned US servicepeople who don't opt out of fighting for Maidan, I hope that the Atheists are right, because I wouldn't want to answer for igniting the next Holodomor.

You've been here before. Make the right choice.

(My apologies to readers who clicked on [Rep. Clare Boothe Luce](#) earlier, and were taken to an article on Solzhenitsyn! The link now takes you to a short post on Rep. Clare and her lover Roald.)

2 COMMENTS

KNOW YOUR HISTORY



Happy Monday, readers. There are two separate parts to this post today.

1) I don't have much to say re Putin's surprise video message from Edward Snowden. My single contribution is: both the **Russian** and **American** intelligence apparatus have figured out how to use Snowden. **These intel outfits are going to try to distract you** from the important parts of what Snowden revealed: that private US companies partner with the NSA, and the NSA's international buddies, against you.

2) On a more uplifting note, I'm fortunate to have readers who are smarter than I am and who know their history. Hubri5, the commenter who gave a.nolen the transcript to **Snowden's NDR interview**, sent in some awesome links last week through **Do You Hear: Snowden Uses Tails and Tor!**

I'm going to summarize those links here, because it may save you time and I'm afraid these pages may disappear from the web. Welcome to the *Cliff's Notes* edition of "American Intelligence Built the Internet".

Exhibit 1:

The hack of the year

November 13, 2007
The Sydney Morning Herald, by Patrick Gray (apparently)
A Swedish hacker tells how he infiltrated a global communications network used by scores of embassies over the world using Tor.

[Dan] Egerstad gained access to 1000 high-value email accounts. He would later post 100 sets of sensitive email logins and passwords on the internet for criminals, spies or just curious teenagers to use to snoop on inter-governmental, NGO and high-value corporate email.

How did Egerstad do this?

The 22-year-old Swedish security consultant had merely installed free, open-source software – called Tor – on five computers in data centres around the globe and monitored it. Ironically, Tor is designed to prevent intelligence agencies, corporations and computer hackers from determining the virtual – and physical – location of the people who use it.

What did Dan see?

Initially it seemed that government, embassy, NGO and corporate staffers were using Tor but had misconfigured their systems, allowing Egerstad to sniff sensitive information off the wire. After Egerstad posted the passwords, blame for the embarrassing breach was initially placed on the owners of the passwords he had intercepted.

However, Egerstad now believes the victims of his experiment may not have been using Tor. It's quite possible he stumbled on an underground intelligence gathering exercise, carried out by parties unknown.

"Parties Unknown" in 2007 maybe, but... NSA. (At least! Keep reading!)

[Egerstadt] "The whole point of the story that has been forgotten, and I haven't said much about it, (is that) many of these accounts had been compromised," he says. "The logins I caught were not legit users but actual hackers who'd been reading these accounts."

In other words, the people using Tor to access embassy email accounts may not have been embassy staff at all. Egerstad says they were computer hackers using Tor to hide their origins from their victims.

So, being a good boy scout...

After a couple of months sniffing and capturing information, Egerstad was faced with a moral dilemma: what to do with all the intercepted passwords and emails.

*So Egerstad set about notifying the affected governments. He approached a few, **but the only one to respond was Iran**. “They wanted to know everything I knew,” he says. “That’s the only response I got, except a couple of calls from the Swedish security police, but that was pretty much all the response I got from any authority.”*

Frustrated by the lack of a response, Egerstad’s next step caused high anxiety for government staffers – and perhaps intelligence services – across the globe. He posted 100 email log-ins and passwords on his blog, DEranged Security. “I just ended up (saying) ‘Screw it, I’m just going to put it online and see what happens’.”

Dear readers, it may be that evil Tehran is the only government not part of the NSA’s/Corporate Digital America’s dragnet surveillance cabal. Whoa. Makes me think a little differently about those sanctions...

I’ve saved a copy of this Sidney Morning Herald webpage offline, if it goes away and you want to read the original thing, email me. adotnolen@gmx

What happened to Dan: picked up by the police, let go, and now it seems he doesn’t want to talk about Tor anymore.

Exhibit 2:

Tor Exit Nodes Harvest Huge Amounts of Sensitive Information

The following quote is courtesy of [cryptogon.com](#), and was in turn taken from a website that is currently only available in [German](#).

*Members of the Teamfurry community got curious and took a look at the advertised configurations of a few randomly selected TOR exit-nodes. They stumbled on some extremely interesting results. **There are, for example, exit-nodes which only forward unencrypted versions of certain protocols.** One such node only accepts unencrypted IMAP and POP connections (TCP ports 143 and 110) and only forwards messenger connections from AIM, Yahoo IM and MSN Messenger if they are received on ports on which traffic is handled as plain text. The same procedure is applied to Telnet and VNC connections, used for remote access to systems. Further, there are systems which are only interested in specific destinations and, for example, exclusively forward HTTP packets bound for MySpace and Google. HTTPS traffic to these destinations is, however, blocked.*

***These peculiar configurations invite speculation as to why they are set up in this way.** The Teamfurry blog declines to go so far as to impute nefarious motives to these nodes. Nevertheless, the report does raise the question of whether users should route personal data via such nodes. It is certainly generally believed that Chinese, Russian and American government agencies operate TOR exit-nodes. Large companies and illegal hacker groups are also thought to operate exit-nodes. Looking through the list of TOR exit-nodes, it is striking that the number of exit-nodes in China and the US has increased disproportionately over the last year.*

Here’s [TeamFurry’s website](#), it hasn’t been updated since 2009.

Exhibit 3:

High-Traffic Colluding Tor Routers in Washington, D.C., and the Ugly Truth About Online Anonymity

How somebody from Dubai set up a Tor router ‘team’ of computers in D.C., apparently to watch Tor traffic. Read on as the author, Kevin Flaherty, says loudly and slowly that the US military built the internet, so using the internet anonymously is kinda like sneaking into your work-from-home neighbor’s house and expecting not to get caught. You gotta be *really* smart and self-disciplined. (Btw, according to the author himself, he doesn’t even try to hide.)

Exhibit 4:

Spoiled Onions: Exposing Bad Tor Exit Relays

January 21st, 2014 via [Spoiled Onions](#)

The Spoiled Onions project will be one to watch, folks. It’s funded by a Swedish outfit called [Internetfonden](#). That link is in Swedish; it seems that Internetfonden gets support from [.SE](#) (an English link). ‘.SE’, or ‘The Internet Infrastructure Foundation’, is responsible for Swedish top level domains and developing the Swedish internet. So, erm, don’t tell Langley, okay?

But, I’m not a spook-snob, so if Spoiled Onions write papers that make sense, I’m not going poo-poo them just because Säpo doesn’t have as much money as the CIA. In fact, Spoiled Onions should be required reading, if only because Stockholm’s interests don’t overlap 100% with American ones. Here’s Spoiled Onions’ [first paper](#), it’s worth browsing the pdf. Summary: I guess the Russians are the ones setting up malicious exit

relays... (because the Americans watch the network some other way?!)
Those sneaky Ruskies!

But seriously, it's clear that US intelligence and their European allies maintain Tor, the Russians have found a way get more than their 'fair' cut of the information using poorly-configured exit nodes. #RussianSpacePen

Thank you, Hubri5!

LEAVE A COMMENT

DO YOU HEAR: SNOWDEN USES TAILS AND TOR!

As I write this, Twitter is being spammed with hundreds of users tweeting out the exact same message:

Here's the software that helps Edward Snowden avoid the NSA – <http://t.co/DdgH9YCsR5> – by Jon Fingas

— Jane Cake (@Jane_Cakeee) *April 16, 2014*

If you search for 'NSA' on Twitter now, you'll face a wall of these EXACT SAME tweets, sent by different accounts of course.

Well, sort of . Variations on Google, Amazon and Ebay accounts have sent multiple copies of this same message:

Here's the software that helps Edward Snowden avoid the NSA <http://t.co/YLIOjHmnGD>

— Google Tech (@ggtechmy) *April 16, 2014*

Here's the software that helps Edward Snowden avoid the NSA <http://t.co/IWnyuCXLq7>

— Amazon Mobile US (@AmazonMobileUS) *April 16, 2014*

Here's the software that helps Edward Snowden avoid the NSA <http://t.co/0354jszY4C>

— Ebay Mobile US (@EMobileUS) *April 16, 2014*

There seem to be at least five dummy accounts for each company.

Other 'identities' that are heavily represented in this spam-tsunami feature 1) young men with Arabic sounding names like this chap:

Here's the software that helps Edward Snowden avoid the NSA [#startup #Dubai #GCC](http://t.co/Kiozdyul6n)

— Abdul M. (@silverbacklive) *April 16, 2014*

2) young ladies with sultry avatars:

Here's the software that helps Edward Snowden avoid the NSA <http://t.co/1VUZG3Nbsm>

— Josefina Bonam (@Josefinaavv) *April 16, 2014*

3) Beauty/Horoscope/Heath feeds that have suddenly developed an interest in Snowden:

Here's the software that helps Edward Snowden avoid the NSA: By Jon Fingas Edward Snowden hasn't e... [#technology](http://t.co/uoqSIQISPq)

— Beverly Cook (@ehadsfood) *April 16, 2014*

Here's the software that helps Edward Snowden avoid the NSA: By Jon Fingas Edward Snowden hasn't e... [#technology](http://t.co/ixPdYsTkX1d)

— Stacy Carter (@ehadshealth) *April 16, 2014*

Here's the software that helps Edward Snowden avoid the NSA: By Jon Fingas Edward Snowden hasn't... [#entertainment](http://t.co/iaRgx8YQMO5)

— Grace Hunter (@ehadsgossip) *April 16, 2014*

Here's the software that helps Edward Snowden avoid the NSA: By Jon Fingas Edward Snowden hasn't e... [#technology](http://t.co/uoV32NLEiJ)

— Amy Turner (@ehadsfashion) *April 16, 2014*

Somebody called 'Ehad' has been really busy!

I'll just go out and say it: an organization with hundreds of Twitter users at its beck and call has decided to push Tor, The Onion Router, and it's software Tails as 'the software Snowden uses to keep safe'. This organization doesn't seem to worry that Amazon, Ebay or Google will get pissy about their logos being used in the operation. This organization decided to swamp Twitter in one big Tails ad after the close of business on April 15th, the day when US taxes are due. (At least that is what my Twitter stream is showing me.)

The article being pushed most is Joe Fingas' "[Here's the software that helps Edward Snowden Avoid the NSA](#)". The piece is two paragraphs long– perfect for those of us with a short attention span:

Edward Snowden hasn't escaped the NSA's watchful eyes

purely by *exploiting lax security* — he also uses the right software. We now know that he communicates with the media using *Tails*, a customized version of Linux that makes it easy to use *Tor's anonymity network* and other tools that keep data private. The software loads from external drives and doesn't store anything locally, so it's relatively trivial for Snowden and his contacts to discuss leaks without leaving a trace.

The underlying technology isn't completely original, and it's not perfect; *Tails'* open source code and anonymous developer base help resist pressure to include *spy-friendly back doors*, but there are still potential security holes. Users also have to be careful with their *choices of internet services* while using *Tails*, as the *wrong ones* could give the whole game away. Even with those concerns in mind, the software is a big help to Snowden, journalists and others that want to keep their conversations under wraps with a minimum of effort.

That's it.

Now this will seem odd to people who watched *Snowden's SXSW* talk a few weeks ago, where he stated that Tor was useful for blocking run-of-the-mill spybots, but not good for journalists or activists who might be targeted for NSA surveillance.

Do you think Snowden thought he might have been targeted for surveillance once he signed up to work with the CIA/NSA/BoozAllen? He certainly knew *Laura Poitras was under surveillance*. So why would he use TOR/Tails for 'keeping safe' when he *clearly stated at SXSW* that these tools are not good for targeted individuals?

The people who Twitter lets spam messages like the ones I've posted; the people who are trying to spin Snowden's message; the people who keep hundreds of internet trolls on payroll to spin public discourse; these are the people who are promoting TOR.

You know, TOR— *paid for* by The Broadcasting Board of Governors, the same American Government outfit that *spins* for Carlos Garcia-Perez, director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) and Champion of *ZunZuneo*.

(ZunZuneo is the US government's attempt to *influence public discourse* in Cuba and destabilize the country.)

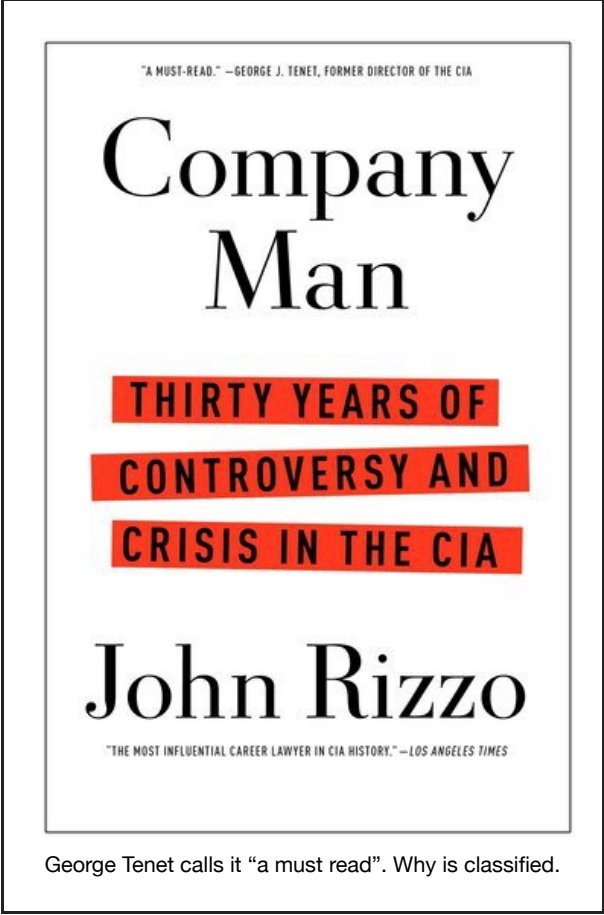
TOR is an American intelligence asset *paid for* by one of Washington's top propaganda outfits. *Joe Fingas* is either really stupid, ignorant or a cheap shill for the NSA. *Klint Finley* of WIRED is *just as bad*.

... and one message for the Associated Press: Twitter needs to be 'outed' as a spy tool, just as you *claim to have done with ZunZuneo*. Or is the AP just part of the problem?

Internet community, you've been warned. If you want security, start thinking along *these lines*.

6 COMMENTS

LIBERAL HOLLYWOOD AND THE CIA



Howdy readers! A fun one today. Former CIA acting General Counsel John Rizzo has written a new book, *Company Man: Thirty Years of Controversy and Crisis in the CIA*, in which *he claims liberal Hollywood actors spy for the CIA*.

“The CIA has long had a special relationship with the entertainment industry, devoting considerable attention to fostering relationships with Hollywood movers and shakers

—studio executives, producers, directors, big-name actors,” John Rizzo, the former acting CIA general counsel, wrote in his new book.

“People might assume that since Hollywood leans to the political left, the CIA’s relationships “would be with the sort of conservative picket of Hollywood,” Rizzo said in an interview. “Well, that’s not true. People one would normally associated with liberal causes have assisted CIA.”

a.nolen readers know the assumption that ‘the CIA is a right-wing organization’ is an historically inaccurate one; OSS and CIA *leadership* have been left-leaning since day one, and were **eager to work with their Stalin-era Soviet** counterparts whenever possible (outside of public oversight)!

Here’s the catch with *Company Man*: Rizzo can’t say who in Hollywood is a spook. That’s classified. But he can give us details, and using those a.nolen will make some obvious suggestions.

The CIA also recruits actors to give more visibility to propaganda projects abroad, such as a documentary secretly produced by the agency, Rizzo said. And the agency sometimes takes advantage of the door-opening cachet that movie stars and other American celebrities enjoy. A star who met a world leader, for example, might be asked for details about that meeting.

The CIA has officials assigned full time to the care and feeding of Hollywood assets, Rizzo wrote.

Now let’s see– which Hollywood figures bear the hallmarks of CIA groupies? John Cusack is the pet actor at **documentary-maker** Laura Poitras’ **Freedom of the Press foundation**. And then there’s actor/athlete **Denis Rodman and his buddy Kim Jong Un**; perhaps their friendship was sweetened by the fact **lingerie Woman’s Basketball** wasn’t a money-maker. And who wants to place bets that Angelina Jolie with her UN work and strange movie about the Former Yugoslavia isn’t on Langley’s payroll? (Hollywood’s tough on older women…)

“These are people who have made a lot of money basically making stuff up,” the colleague said. “A lot of them, at least the smarter and more self-aware ones, realize that what they do makes them ridiculously rich but is also ephemeral and meaningless in the larger scheme of things. So they’re receptive to helping the CIA in any way they can, probably in equal parts because they are sincerely patriotic and because it gives them a taste of real life intrigue.”

Rizzo described a scene from “years ago” when one of the CIA’s Hollywood recruiters came to him with news that a major film star wanted to work for the agency after he found out a rival actor had been doing so. “Now this actor was offering his own name and services to us. Free of charge. Anything he could do. Just out of his patriotic duty.”

The USA is so lucky to have smart, self-aware Hollywoodites who want to make the world a better place by working for the CIA. Let’s consider who these geniuses might be.

Here’s US Patriot/liberal George Clooney telling Ukraine how it’s gonna be:

And Arnie doing the same (Arnie’s been interested in government for a long time!):

And of course, Hayden Panettiere:

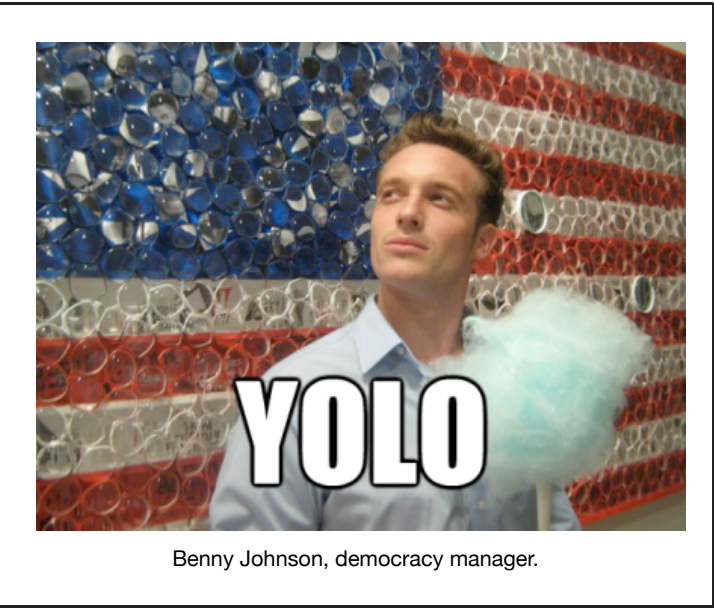
The Adobe Flash Player or an HTML5 supported browser is required for video playback.
[Get the latest Flash Player](#)
[Learn more about upgrading to an HTML5 browser](#)

And those three are just for the Ukraine!

Perhaps less well known than the regime-change amigos is Goldie Hawn and her work on ‘[mindfulness](#)’ at the World Economic Forum in Davos this year, which is all a little MK-ULTRA for me. If any Global World Leaders wig out in the next 12 months, we’ll know why.

6 COMMENTS

@BENNYJOHNSON IS GOOD AT HIS JOB



There’s a philosophical idea called ‘the Hegelian dialectic’ which says that by combining a thesis with an antithesis you can find truth, or at least a higher understanding (synthesis). For instance:

- 1) Thesis: ‘Left’ and ‘right’ are two different things.
- 2) Antithesis: My ‘left’ could be the same as your ‘right’, so ‘left’ and ‘right’ can be equal.
- 3) Synthesis: ‘left’ and ‘right’ must be defined according to something outside themselves.

This might seem trivial to you, but consider what happens if your motivation isn’t to find truth, but to reach a foregone conclusion. Let’s take politics for an example. If you want people to come to a certain conclusion, you need to control what ‘left’ and ‘right’ is. USAID recently tried to do this with [Zunzuneo](#) in Cuba: they tried to use cell networks to twist public debate in a way that benefits Washington (or at least which benefits the Cubans who Washington puts in charge of anti-Havana broadcasting).

Imagine that you’re an internet content producer who is trying to do the same thing in the US that Carlos Garcia-Perez tried to do in Cuba. You’ve got a tired program which hasn’t changed since 1946, namely, you promote a socialist agenda that’s cool with Global-Robber-Barron Capitalism. How do you present ‘conservative’ ideas that won’t undermine your overarching message?

Hire Benny Johnson! Benny exemplifies teaching through entertainment: a method of crowd control which I wrote about [here](#), in *Soft News Stories*. Benny entertains us and tries to teach us what to think in the process; according to his own Twitter blurb, he ‘[makes internet all day long](#)’. That’s why venues like [Salon](#) pay attention to him.

Benny Johnson is what the Mainstream Media would like ‘conservatives’ to be. They trot out Benny to promote ideas that indirectly promote their cause, provide an ‘antithesis’, which combined with Robber-Baron-approved socialism, congeals to an outcome the Mainstream Media finds desirable.

How does Benny do this?

- 1) Promote ‘homophobic’ ideas while cultivating a gay image. (Synthesis: “Benny Johnson is obviously a self-hating closet homosexual,” and “Conservatives are hypocrites. ‘Cause seriously, who could eat that much Chick-Fil-A!”

Biggest lessons form Chick-Fil-A boycott: Leftist views/intolerance/hissy-fits are not popular, delicious fried chicken remains popular

— Benny (@bennyjohnson) [August 2, 2012](#)

This is my intolerant lunch. And I'm going to eat them all
[#chickfila pic.twitter.com/HdJCXCot](#)

— Benny (@bennyjohnson) *August 2, 2012*

2) Race-baiting. Check out what Benny had for dinner on MLK day, which he tweeted on Twitter: Gin'n'Juice with a side of Fried Chicken.

Happy MLK Day to me. pic.twitter.com/YWcsA56S

— Benny (@bennyjohnson) *January 16, 2012*

Chicken and waffle. Gourmet. pic.twitter.com/3qxKICV7

— Benny (@bennyjohnson) *January 16, 2012*

And how about this one...

Hey I just met you, and this is crazy, here's some citizenship, vote for me maybe? pic.twitter.com/CKxCldZx

— Benny (@bennyjohnson) *June 15, 2012*

Race-baiting is a staple to Benny's act, catch a choice selection [here](#).

Remember, readers, that according to the Mainstream Media, 'conservatives' are racist xenophobes, who are *probably* just secretly jealous of minorities, note Benny's [gratuitous plagiarism of Black culture: #YOLO](#). ('You only live once,' or 'YOLO' was made famous by rapper [Drake](#).)

3) Straw-manning. Look at the funny White people, everybody! See, White people are like this! *Benny attends Annapolis Croquet Tournament trolling for some internet fodder.*

I'm at the Annapolis croquet tournament today, look at the interesting flyer I found pic.twitter.com/uRbIVnRbN8

— Benny (@bennyjohnson) *April 12, 2014*

Have you met my parents? pic.twitter.com/MfrnGtPrLt

— Benny (@bennyjohnson) *April 12, 2014*

Oh, and uh...

Killin it pic.twitter.com/lkCWxvUjAg

— Benny (@bennyjohnson) *April 12, 2014*

Why would an outfit like BuzzFeed be so eager to document Annapolis Croquet 2014? Why post fliers and send their newest editor? Because the Mainstream Media believes that White people live in the past and are increasingly irrelevant– and what better place to snap pics bolstering those beliefs than a fancy-dress croquet party?

Another aspect of straw-manning is Benny's work on [Snowden, which I've documented elsewhere](#). Mainstream media take-home: 'conservatives' like Benny are militaristic assholes who hate Edward Snowden and want to live in a fascistic police state.

An important piece of pop art at this house party pic.twitter.com/dPEgN5aNyp

— Benny (@bennyjohnson) *April 13, 2014*

4)Demoralization. According to the mainstream media, Libertarians– hell, any movement which believes in small government– do not offer a politically viable option. They're just kinda funny and immature: don't take them any more seriously than you take Benny himself!

[23 Libertarian Problems by Benny Johnson; Yes, I do sleep on a copy of Atlas Shrugged](#)

Mainstream Media: “So er, if any of you @BennyJohnson followers are thinking along libertarian lines, just grow up already, okay?”

Benny Johnson used to work for Glenn Beck at *The Blaze*; I've written elsewhere how Glenn Beck is used to derail '[small-government](#)' [movements](#) like The Tea Party. Benny proved his [usefulness in college](#) by setting up Republican groups and then doing self-depreciating things like sending loads of beef jerky to deployed US soldiers. (Mainstream media: “Huh, huh, the meat-heads like dried meat. Meat. Huh, huh.”)

Of course, Benny would be no use to anyone without the 'thesis' pundits who bite on his provocations:

[22 Attacks On Obama And The Left From BuzzFeed's Newest Editor: BuzzFeed Turns To Glenn Beck's The Blaze For New Hire](#) by OLIVER WILLIS

Or, this sad dude:

hey [@bennyjohnson](#) how does it feel knowing Kim Kardashian is allowed to the correspondents' dinner and you aren't. you twerp. fucker idiot

— [tinybaby \(@tinybaby\)](#) *April 11, 2014*

By all means, check [Benny's Twitter feed](#) for MANY more examples. As I said, Benny's very good at his job.

Synthesis: @BennyJohnson is BuzzFeed's parody of the people @BennyJohnson is supposed to speak for. There really is no alternative to The American Neo-Liberal Way; so get out of the way or follow. Huh, huh. Follow.

PS. Many thanks to ...

[Alex Pareene](#) writes about politics for Salon and is the author

of *“The Rude Guide to Mitt.”* Email him at apareene@salon.com and follow him on Twitter [@pareene](#)

And..

methadonna methadonna used to conduct social media psyops campaigns for george soros. he is still waiting for his paycheck.

... without these fools’ thesis-ramblings I would have had to spend a few minutes more on Twitter.

LEAVE A COMMENT

HEARTBLEED



I never get tired of plugging smart people. Heard of *“Heartbleed”*– the OpenSSL ‘flaw’ that left two-thirds of the internet vulnerable to hackers?

“The agency [NSA] found the Heartbeat glitch shortly after its introduction, according to one of the people familiar with the matter, and it became a basic part of the agency’s toolkit for stealing account passwords and other common tasks,” Riley wrote.

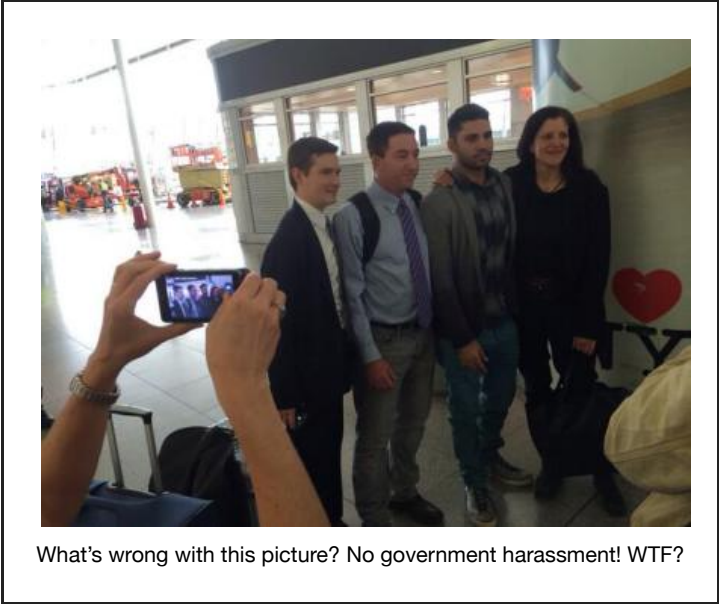
“Putting the Heartbleed bug in its arsenal, the NSA was able to obtain passwords and other basic data that are the building blocks of the sophisticated hacking operations at the core of its mission, but at a cost,” he added. “Millions of ordinary users were left vulnerable to attack from other nations’ intelligence arms and criminal hackers.”

Funny, but this sort of situation with OpenSSL is exactly what **Poul-Henning Kamp** warned us about in his FOSDEM 2014 talk. In fact, I remember him calling OpenSSL the NSA’s *“crown jewel”*. Catch the full audio [here](#); a transcript of the pertinent part [here](#). Kamp uses OpenSSL as the example of NSA-compromised open source code. I am comforted that at least FOSDEM 2014 attendees and a.nolen readers got a ‘heads-up’ a month before the rest of the world. Pays to check this blog every so often.

Here’s a quick explanation of how the [Heartbleed vulnerability](#) works. Read Poul-Henning Kamp’s blog [here](#) (in English). Read about his famous Bike Shed [here](#); ‘arguing over the color of a Bike Shed’ is a metaphor for useless, red-herring open source programming squabbles that derail projects. Otherwise known as ‘PAINTINT’ ... just kidding.

LEAVE A COMMENT

SO SHE CLEARED CUSTOMS THIS TIME



Thank God today was not one of the *“over forty”* times US customs officials detained Laura Poitras!

Polk awards told [@ggreenwald](#) & Laura Poitras have “cleared

customs" to receive prize with @ewenmacaskill & @bartongellman

— alan rusbridger (@arusbridger) April 11, 2014

It seems that the US government is *happier* with Laura after her Snowden work than it was when she was bopping around Iraq with **Sunni Insurgent leaders**.

UPDATE

.@ggreenwald and Laura Poitras make it to Polk Awards

— alan rusbridger (@arusbridger) April 11, 2014

Fantastic! Truth wins. I can breath easier now and file my taxes.

If you’re wondering why I’m being sarcastic about this HISTORIC visit to NYC which is also a victory for Freedom of the Press, please read my posts on **Laura’s undercover work**; why I think **she and Glenn are doing Snowden a disservice**; and how **creepy her chauffeur** is.

Just dropped off @ggreenwald and @laurapoitras at the airport for their journey home from Berlin to accept the Polk Award in New York.

— Jacob Appelbaum (@ioerror) April 11, 2014

If you like those posts, there’s plenty more on my **Current Events** page.

PS. I just happened to notice this gem pulling tweets for today’s post:

@headhnr @evacide @agl__ @csoghoian I’m working on packages for Debian. Soon it will be easier and safer to use Pond on Debian than OS X.

— Jacob Appelbaum (@ioerror) April 11, 2014

More fun with **Debian**, everyone! Don’t assume Jacob’s making it better. Learn a bit of the history around this operating system from somebody who really knows what they’re talking about, **Poul Henning Kamp**.

LEAVE A COMMENT

WHAT DO I DO NOW, CHUCK?

I worked for an ex-professor once; this prof used to teach at MIT. He told me an anecdote from his days at The Institute:

“It was 1990 and I was serving on some committee with Chuck Vest, the president. Cambridge was heady with the fall of The Wall, end of The Cold War. Anything seemed possible– a new era for the good guys.

*So you can imagine my confusion when I walked into Chuck’s office to find him slumped over his desk with dark circles around his eyes: ‘What the f*ck do I do now, Bob?’ he asked me.”*

Names have been changed to protect the more innocent party .

In that spirit, I would like to share with you a very short article from Antiwar.com, written by Jason Ditz.

New Cold War: US Spies, Military Leaders Refocus on Russia

Soviet-Era Specialties May Become Relevant Again

by Jason Ditz, April 07, 2014
The past couple of decades haven’t been particularly kind to people like experts of anti-submarine warfare. The Taliban doesn’t have submarines, or a coastline even.

Since the end of the Cold War, a lot of transitions have come, with the military focusing more on counter-insurgency and the CIA **moving away from spying** to focus on assassinating people.

When US officials call the annexation of Crimea a crisis, what many of them really hear is opportunity, a chance to start up a new Cold War, and **a chance for the aging cold warriors to find their specialties relevant** once more.

That’s particularly true for spies with expertise in Russia, who are hoping to see a scramble back into a field that was lavished with funding for decades, but which in recent years just wasn’t as sexy as aiming drone strikes at people in rural parts of Pakistan.

— —

Some things never change, eh?



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TWEETS

RT @dgolumbia: P. Zimbardo is very weird (see anolen.com/2014/11/16/the...), but important to find boys preferring porn to women, etc. <http://t.c...> 3 days ago

@CUEwindsearch @rebrandingtime from Wiki on Rall: Rall's cartoons have appeared regularly in Rolling Stone, Time, Fortune and Men's Health 3 days ago

@CUEwindsearch @rebrandingtime stinks to high heaven. It's a logistical nightmare to plan trips to these regions, let alone broadcasting. 3 days ago

@CUEwindsearch @rebrandingtime cut to drift... that's original. I'll be good to see where they turn up next... Kyiv Post? :) 3 days ago

@CUEwindsearch @sarahcuda @rebrandingtime typical spook response to criticism. 3 days ago

Isn't this interesting! twitter.com/jlaws/status/5... 3 days ago

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- February 2015
- January 2015
- December 2014
- November 2014
- October 2014
- September 2014
- August 2014
- July 2014
- June 2014
- May 2014
- April 2014
- March 2014
- February 2014
- January 2014
- December 2013
- November 2013
- October 2013
- September 2013
- August 2013
- July 2013
- June 2013
- May 2013
- April 2013
- March 2013
- February 2013
- January 2013
- December 2012
- November 2012
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